GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:849
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER TALKS
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held on Indo-Bangladesh border dispute recently;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the time by which these decisions are likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (c) At the invitation of the Government of India, an official delegation from Bangladesh visited India from June 11-14, 2001 for talks on pending matters relating to the India - Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974. The discussions focussed on early operationalisation of the two Joint Boundary Working Groups, the first on Border Demarcation, and the second on Enclaves and Adversely Possessed Territories. The decision to constitute these Boundary Working Groups was taken by the Foreign Secretaries of India and Bangladesh in December 2000 with a view to addressing the pending issues in a focused and systematic manner. The terms of reference for the Joint Boundary Working Groups were finalized and it was agreed that the Joint Boundary Working Groups should complete their work and submit final reports to their respective Foreign Secretaries by April 2002.

The first meeting of the India - Bangladesh Joint Boundary Working Groups on Border Demarcation, and on Enclaves and Adversely Possessed Territories was held in Dhaka from July 2-4, 2001. Both sides presented their respective positions on these matters in order to facilitate a clear understanding of each others` points of view and to address the issues in a pragmatic and time-bound manner. The subsequent meetings could not take place on account of the formation of a neutral caretaker government and holding of general elections in Bangladesh. However, the next meeting of the Joint Boundary Working Groups is expected to take place at an early date.